



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02718

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Individuals Detained Under the Mental Health Act

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

### Question 1

Please provide a breakdown of the following relating to under-18s detained under s 136 of the Mental Health Act between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011:

Please disclose the number of 17 year olds detained.

### Answer

The legislation used in Northern Ireland is The Mental Health Order 1986. Your response is based on reason for detention being identified as containing Article 130(1) of this order;

**130.—(1)** If a constable finds in a place to which the public have access a person who appears to him to be suffering from mental disorder and to be in immediate need of care or control, the constable may, if he thinks it necessary to do so in the interests of that person or for the protection of other persons, remove that person to a place of safety within the meaning of Article 129.

**Please note, answers are based on information recorded by District Policing Command and have not been quality controlled for accuracy.**

Further information on the Mental Health Order 1986 can be found using the following link;  
<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/researchandlibrary/2011/1811.pdf>

The number of 17 year olds detained during the time frame requested was 1.

### Question 2

The number of 16 years olds detained.

### Answer

There were no 16 year olds detained during the time frame.

**Question 3**

The number of 15 year olds and under detained.

**Answer**

There were no 15 year olds and under detained.

**Question 4**

The age of the youngest person detained.

For each case in each age group, please state

- a. where the person was initially detained eg police custody, mental health unit or hospital
- b. length of time the individual was held in police custody (only if the cost limit is not exceeded)
- c. outcome of detention: ( ie. for the cases where an individual was held in a cell, where did they go next? eg hospital/mental health unit or released into the community - only if the cost limit is not exceeded)

**Answer**

The youngest person detained under Article 130 (1) of the Mental Health Order 1986 during the time frame was 17.

This individual was detained in police custody for approximately 9 hours before being released and transported to a mental health hospital.

**Question 5**

Please also supply the total number of under 18s detained in police custody under the Mental Health Act between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011.

**Answer**

1 individual under the age of 18 was detained in police custody under the Mental Health Order 1986 during the time frame requested.

**Question 6**

The total number of people (adults, young people and children) detained under the Mental Health Act between 1 January 2011-31 December 2011.

**Answer**

38 individuals in total were detained under the Mental Health Order 1986 during the time frame requested.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by

emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.